d. Customs Duty on Nickel, an important raw material for steel making, reduced from 5% to 2% in May 2007.

e. DEPB benefit on export of various categories of steel products was withdrawn *w.e.f.* 27.03.2008.

2008-09

a. Import Duty on all non-alloy steel, Zinc, ferro-alloys and metcoke revised to 'Nil' from 5% *w.e.f.* 29.4.08.

b. CVED on TMT bars and rounds modified to 'Nil' from 14%.

c. Export Duty was initially imposed on 10.5.08 on all flat products @ 15% on HR, 10% on CR, 5% on GP/GC and 10% on pipes and tubes. This was subsequently withdrawn on 13.06.2008.

d. Export duty @15% imposed on 10.05,2008 on Pig Iron, Sponge Iron, Scrap, Ingots and all categories of non-alloy semi finished steel.

e. Export Duty @ 10% was imposed on long products such as bars, wire rods, angles etc., on 10.05.08. This was later revised to 15% *w.e.f.* 13.06.08.

f. Ad-valorem export duty of 15% imposed on iron ore of all categories and grades *w.e.f.* 13.06.2008.

(c) The month wise steel price movement in Delhi Retail Market during April 2008 to October 2008 is given in the table below.

(In Rs/ton)

Month	HR 2.0 mm	CR 0.63 mm	TMT 10 mm	Wire Rod 8mm	Pig Iron	Pencil Ingot 100mm
April 2008	49000	52000	46000	43600	34500	38300
May 2008	43000	45000	38200	38000	32400	33000
June 2008	50045	49492	47451	45925	32900	39650
July 2008	45327	48145	43335	43738	35397	38168
August 2008	45477	48145	42727	43073	36873	35366
September 2008	45327	48700	41934	43664	36000	35300

Source: JPC

(d) Steel is a deregulated sector and steel prices are determined by the market based on factors like demand and supply situation, landed cost of imports, input costs and price and availability of substitutes etc. The Government, as a facilitator, takes administrative and fiscal measures whenever required to ensure stability in price and supply of steel in the domestic market.

Claims of the SAIL over the leaseholds on Chiria iron ore mines

929. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the claim of the SAIL over the leaseholds on Chiria iron-ore mines is in dispute with the Jharkhand State Government which is affecting the expansion of SAIL in the States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The status of mining leases of Chiria (Manoharpur iron ore mines) is given in the Statement (*See* below).

The renewal applications of three leases of Chiria mines have been rejected by the Government of Jharkhand in the year 2004 and 2005. The other three leases are under deemed extension. The delay in renewal of mining leases is affecting the expansion plan of SAIL.

The Ministry of Steel and SAIL have initiated a number of steps to resolve the issue. Some of the important steps taken are:-

1. Since June' 2004, Hon'ble Minister of Steel has made three written requests to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand for renewal of mining leases of Chiria.
2. The Prime Minister's Office convened meetings on 7.8.2006, 4.9.2006 and 19.2.2007 with Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Mines, Government of Jharkhand and SAIL to resolve the issue.
3. Hon'ble Prime Minister in August' 2007 has also written to the Chief Minister (Jharkhand) to look into the renewal of Chiria leases personally to ensure its early resolution in the larger national interests.
4. Hon'ble Minister of Steel in August' 2008 has again sought intervention of Hon'ble Prime Minister for an early resolution and further action is being taken in consultation with the Ministry of Mines.

Statement

Status of mining leases of Chiria (Manohapur iron ore mines)

Lease	Granted on	Valid upto	Renewal Application submitted on	Status of Mining Lease
1	2	3	4	5
Budhaburu (McLellan)	8.12.1945	7.12.2005	17.11.2004	Deemed extension
Sukri Latur	22.3.1949	21.3.1979	20.3.1978	
Ajithaburu	7.12.1947	6.12.1977	5.3.2008 4.12.1976 30.11.2006	Sukri-Latur and Ajitaburu leases were rejected by the State Government in December, 2004. Revision applications were submitted to Ministry of Mines, Government of India on 2.2.2005. On 9.11.2005, the Mining Tribunal quashed and set aside the rejection orders

1	2	3	4	5
				and directed the State Government to re-consider the renewal of leases. Against the Mining Tribunal order, the State Government approached the Hon'ble High Court on 30.6.2006. Till 22.8.2008, 16 hearings have been held in the Hon'ble High Court. On 23.8.2007, the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) submitted Interlocutory application for the constitution of committee which was rejected by High Court. SAIL submitted the Special Leave Petition (SLP) to Hon'ble Supreme Court on 13.12.2007. On 9.1.2008, the Hon'ble Supreme Court had granted stay on proceedings in Hon'ble High Court pertaining to the renewal of mining leases in Chiria and Gua and directed the State Government to file reply on the SLP of SAIL.
Dhobil	8.3.1948	7.3.1998	4.3.1997	Deemed extension
Tatiburu	1.9.1949	31.8.1979	28.8.1978 24.8.2008	Tatiburu lease was rejected by State Government in June' 2005. A case of renewal of mining lease is pending in Hon'ble High Court.
Ankua	14.6.1982	13.6.1992	12.6.1991	Deemed extension

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Report (July 2005-June 2006) of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India and related papers

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): Sir, I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:

(a) Forty-fourth Report of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India, for the period from July, 2005 to June, 2006, under clause (2) of article 350B of the Constitution of India.